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[Message Information]

PURPOSE: Register agreement with a position
TOPIC: Environment
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: Stop Genetic Engineering

[Message]

Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engineered Foods

President Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Clinton,

I am very concerned that I **am** eating genetically engineered=20 foods without being told that fact. I am sending you this=20

letter to insist that legislation be passed into law that will=20
require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such,=20

regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an ingredient in processed foods.=20

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Genetically engineered crops are not the same as those=20
produced by typical hybridization. The Food & Drug=20

Administration (~~FDA~~), the United States Department of=20
Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection=20

Agency (EPA) are being negligent in protecting the rights of=20
the American public in regards to genetically engineered=20

foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to stop these=20
agencies' neglect of public interest.=20

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to=20
market unlabeled although public opinion polls show a=20

majority of Americans want them labeled. (81% in a January 11,=20
1999 Time magazine poll.) Last year the USDA=20

even proposed to include genetically engineered foods in the=20
definition of organic! The EPA is allowing the **Bt**=20

bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to be=20
genetically engineered into the structure of plants. This=20
could=20

seriously undermine organic agriculture and cause significant=20
human health and environmental problems.=20

Varieties of potatoes and corn are currently being sold that=20
have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin=20

(*Bacillus thuringiensis*). The Bt toxin stays in the cell=20
structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects.=20
We=20

are being told these foods **are** safe for human consumption, but=20
we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and=20

many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. I do=20
not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain=20

the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to eat "Roundup **Ready**" soybeans or=20
other future products such as tomatoes that contain=20

the **gene from** a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it.=20
So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all=20

genetically engineered foods. Similar labeling legislation has=20
already been passed in Europe and Australia.=20

Please write back to me and let me know if you intend to=20
work to pass this legislation. Thank you!=20

Sincerely,

$$= 20$$

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